

Rebekah - University of Bergen, Norway

On the whole I have really, really enjoyed my year abroad. I have become so much braver and more outgoing, whether this be with making friends in classes, going on organised trips with other international students, or travelling, solo or with others. I think coming abroad has really pushed me to be open to trying new things and just doing my best with everything even if it doesn't work out; the important thing is to try.



At first the change in culture and the difference in the sociability of my flat was something that was a really big shock, and it took a lot of getting used to that my flat here aren't really one group of friends like we were at York, but I think in the end that turned out to be a positive thing, because it pushed me to make friends in classes, which I hadn't really done in my first year. It's been really cool to make friends from all over the world, and to hear about their experiences in Bergen and about their hometowns as well. Overall, I'm so grateful to have had the opportunity to study here, and to have had such fantastic new experiences that I never would have had otherwise!

Learning a new language

I've got to grips with a new language, which is something I've always wanted to be able to do, so even though I'm not fluent in Norwegian I'm fairly confident with basic topics of conversation, and I'm even better at reading and writing, and this is such a nice achievement for me to have learned all this.

Accommodation

I chose to live in an apartment in the city centre, due to the close proximity to my faculties, and the better standard of the rooms, but this does mean I've missed out on the social aspect of living in Fantoft, which is much more of a student halls set up. The different environment of my flat has encouraged me to make friends in my classes, and to fill my time with things outside the house, that I can do with friends who live elsewhere in the city or in Fantoft.

Living costs

I knew Norway was an expensive country, but having never been before, I didn't realise quite how expensive! On average, I'd say things tend to be around twice the price of what they would be in the UK, and some things are more than that. Rent itself is cheaper than in York, but it's definitely balanced out by the fact that everything else is so much more expensive!